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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/890,214	05/31/2002	Masaru Yasui	PHJ 99-026	8898

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EXAMINER

NATNAEL, PAULOS M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2622

DATE MAILED: 09/25/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/890,214	Applicant(s) YASUI ET AL.	
Examiner Paulos M. Natnael	Art Unit 2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 5-7, 9, 13 and 15 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1, 2, 8 and 14 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 3, 4 and 10-12 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The Final Rejection mailed on July 18, 2006 has been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims **1,8** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kishida, U.S. Patent No. 6,348,950.

Considering claim 1, the claimed “for the controls on writing and reading, any of the line-memories are circularly selected and a sample sequence of the input digital video signal is sequentially written into the selected line-memory at a sample rate of the sample sequence, and at the same time the samples of the written sequence are sequentially read out at a substantially constant rate which is in accordance with a desired vertical expansion ratio and which is higher than the sample rate, wherein, when one of the line-memories is in a writing operation, the other one of the line-memories is subjected to a repeatedly reading control.”

Regarding claim 1, Kishida discloses video signal processing apparatus, comprising unit of changing the number of lines 30 (figs. 1 and 2). Fig.2 discloses a plurality of line memories (321,322, 341,342) and interpolation control unit 36. The input luminance signals and input color difference signals are alternately written into line memories. The input luminance signal is read twice from the above memories in a period of writing signals of one line... See abstract of the disclosure. A writing/reading control of a signal to/from memories and setting of the coefficients are performed by the interpolation control unit. Kishida discloses that the video signal processing circuit also comprises writing and reading means for alternately writing the inputted luminance signal into the first and second line memories every line in a ring method, alternately writing the inputted color difference signal every line into the third and fourth line memories in a ring method, determining a read start position and a read start timing of each of the luminance signals written in the first and second line memories and the color difference signals written in the third and fourth line memories by using integer parts of the first to third count means, and reading the written luminance and color difference signals, and coefficient generating means for generating first to fourth coefficients by using decimal fraction parts of the second and third count means. (col. 2, lines 36-49 and col. 27, lines 22-49) Thus, Kishida discloses the claimed subject matter in claim 1.

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Considering claim 8, see rejection of claim 1;

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims **2,14** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kishida, U.S. Patent No. 6,348,950 in view of Yoshida, U.S. 5,168,362.

Considering claims 2 and 14, Kishida discloses line memories. Kishida does not disclose dual port and/or FIFOs. However, the examiner submits that dual port memories using FIFOs are notoriously well known in the art. In that regard, Yoshida teaches an apparatus for displaying standard aspect ratio television signal on wide aspect ratio display screen. Fig.6 of Yoshida discloses a converter circuit comprising a dual port line memory 23, which is also a FIFO type memory. See col. 7, lines 23-26. It would have been therefore obvious to the skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the reference of Kishida by providing a line memory that is a dual port FIFO such as that taught by Yoshida in order for the writing and reading of video information to and from the memory is made more efficient (i.e., improved transfer rate, processing time, etc.) as is notoriously well known in the art of television or video signal conversion or interpolation of the same.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed 8-29-06 have been fully considered but they are not moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims **5-7,9,13,15** are allowable over the prior art.

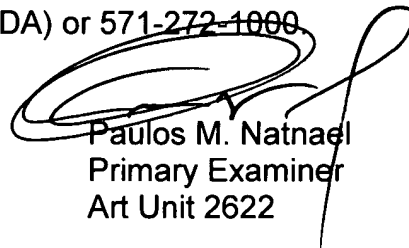
8. Claims **4,11-12** are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paulos M. Natnael whose telephone number is (571) 272-7354. The examiner can normally be reached on 7AM-3:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Ometz can be reached on (571)272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Paulos M. Natnael
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2622

September 18, 2006